

## REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

In the application, Claims 1-22 and 25 are pending. In the Office Action dated July 16, 2002, Claims 1, 2, 9-10, 20-22 were finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a/b) as allegedly being anticipated by Southwest Airlines web page. Claims 1-3, 5-11, 20-22, and 25 were finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,948,040 ("DeLorme et al."). Claim 4 is objected to but indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In this Reply, in order to expedite the issuance into patent of the allowable claims, independent Claims 1 and 20 are amended to include the allowable features claimed in Claim 4. Claims 4 and 21 are canceled since the elements claimed in those claims are now included in their respective base Claims 1 and 20. This amendment does not concede that the Examiner's rejections in the Office Action are proper. Rather, the Applicants explicitly reserve the right to continue the prosecution of the rejected claims at a later date in a continuing application.

Since Claims 2-3, 5-19 depend from Claim 1, and Claims 22 and 25 depend from Claim 20, it is submitted that these dependent claims are also patentable at least by virtue of their dependencies.

Attached is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims according to 37 C.F.R. §1.121. The attached page is captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."

Applicants believe that Claims 1-3, 5-20, 22, and 25 are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this communication or feels that an interview would

be helpful in advancing the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul J. Farrell", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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**Version with Markings to Show Changes Made**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend Claims 1 and 20 as follows, and cancel Claims 4 and 21 without prejudice.

1. (Twice Amended) A method for providing a service for a traveler to acquire items at the traveler's destination comprising the steps of:

receiving a request from a traveler for obtaining at least one item at the traveler's destination location;

selecting by the traveler a delivery location, which is associated with the destination location, to which the at least one item will be delivered;

arranging for the at least one item to be supplied;

arranging for the at least one supplied item to be delivered to the selected delivery location; [and

conducting a transaction with the traveler for the traveler to obtain the at least one item]

for each item, transacting with a selected supplier to supply the item;

for each item, transacting with a selected shipper to ship the item; and

transacting with the traveler based on results of the transactions transacted with each selected supplier and each selected shipper.

20. (Twice Amended) A method for providing a service for a traveler to acquire at least one item at the traveler's destination comprising the steps of:

receiving a request from a traveler for obtaining at least one item at the traveler's destination location;

selecting by the traveler a delivery location, which is associated with the destination location, to where the at least one item will be delivered;

providing the traveler with an option to one of rent and purchase the at least one item;

arranging for the at least one item to be supplied;

arranging for delivery of the at least one item to the selected delivery location;

[and

conducting a transaction with the traveler for the traveler to obtain the at least one item]

for each item, transacting with a selected supplier to supply the item;

for each item, transacting with a selected shipper to ship the item; and

transacting with the traveler based on results of the transactions transacted with each selected supplier and each selected shipper.